IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

line 1, change "The present invention relates to a" to

--A--;

same line, delete "or the";

line 2, delete "like, which are";

line 3, change ". Control" to --, in which a control--;

line 12, after "predetermined" insert --delay--;

line 13, delete "been";

delete lines 14-16.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-22 by rewriting same to read as follows.

--1. (Amended) A control device for controlling [pieces of] a controlled apparatus performing communications within a network, comprising:

[a] determining means for determining whether [said] the controlled apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to a signal from said control device;

[a] measuring means for measuring a duration of an abnormally controlled period of time when said determining

means determines that [said] the controlled apparatus is

abnormally controlled corresponding to [a] the signal from

said control device; and

[a] deallocating means for deallocating an identifier,

allocated to [said] the controlled apparatus for identifying

[said] the controlled apparatus, when [said] the duration

measured by said measuring means exceeds a predetermined

measuring period of time.

--2. (Amended) The control device according to claim 1,

[characterized in that] wherein the signal from said control

device is a sending permission signal to [said] the controlled

apparatus.

--3. (Amended) The control device according to claim 1,

[characterized in that the] wherein said control device

further comprises

[a] use-restriction-lifting means for lifting a use

restriction on the controlled apparatus to allow the

identifier deallocated by [the] said deallocating means to be

allocated to any [of said pieces of] controlled apparatus

performing communications within the network after a

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predetermined <u>delaying</u> period of time has elapsed.

--4. (Amended) The control device according to claim 3,
[characterized in that] <u>wherein</u> said control device further
comprises

[a] storage means for storing data indicating a use
condition of [said] <u>the</u> identifier, and [that] said use-
restriction-lifting [mans] <u>means</u> changes [said] <u>the</u> data
indicating a use condition of [said] <u>the</u> identifier[, said
data being stored in said storage means,] to data indicating
[unallocated] <u>an allocated</u> condition when [said] <u>the</u>
deallocated identifier is allocated to any [of said pieces of]
controlled apparatus <u>performing communications within the</u>
<u>network</u>.

--5. (Amended) The control device according to claim 1,
[characterized in that] <u>wherein</u>

said determining means [carries out said determination]
<u>determines whether the controlled apparatus is normally</u>
<u>controlled corresponding to the signal from said control</u>
<u>device</u> every given cycle; and

[that] said measuring means is provided with a counter

for measuring [said] the duration of the abnormally controlled period of time, and when [said] the controlled apparatus is found to be abnormally controlled corresponding to the signal from [the] said control device according to [the determination obtained by] said determining means [every given cycle], said measuring means [measures said duration by incrementing] increments a count of [said] the counter.

--6. (Amended) A control method of a control device for controlling [pieces of] a controlled apparatus performing communications within a network, comprising [the steps of]:

a determining step for determining whether [said] the controlled apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to a signal from said control device;

a measuring step for measuring a duration of an abnormally controlled period of time when [it is determined in] said determining step determines that [said] the controlled apparatus is abnormally controlled corresponding to the signal from [the] said control device; and

a deallocating step for deallocating an identifier, allocated to [said] the controlled apparatus for identifying [said] the controlled apparatus, when the duration measured in

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said measuring step exceeds a predetermined <u>measuring</u> period

of time.

--7. (Amended) The control method according to claim 6,

[characterized in that] <u>wherein</u> the signal from said control

device is a sending permission signal to [said] <u>the</u> controlled

apparatus.

--8. (Amended) The [a] control method according to claim

6, [characterized in that the] <u>wherein said</u> control method

further comprises

a use-restriction-lifting step for lifting a use

restriction on the controlled apparatus to allow the

identifier deallocated in [the] <u>said</u> deallocating step to be

allocated to any [of said pieces of] controlled apparatus

<u>performing communications within the network</u> after a

predetermined <u>delaying</u> period of time has elapsed.

--9. (Amended) The control [device] <u>method</u> according to

claim 8, [characterized in that, in] <u>wherein</u>

said use-restriction-lifting step[,] <u>stores</u> data

indicating a use condition of [said] <u>the</u> identifier[, said

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data being stored] in [said] storage means, [is changed] and

changes the data to data indicating [unallocated] an allocated

condition when [said] the deallocated identifier is allocated

to any [of said pieces of] controlled apparatus performing

communications within the network.

--10. (Amended) The control method according to claim 6,

[characterized in that said determination is carried out in]

wherein

said determining step determines whether the controlled

apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to the signal

from said control device every given cycle; and

[that, in] said measuring step is provided with a counter

for measuring the duration of the abnormally controlled period

of time, and when [said] the controlled apparatus is found to

be abnormally controlled corresponding to the signal from said

control device [according to the determination obtained] in

said determining step, [every given cycle, said duration is

measured by incrementing] a count of [said] the counter is

incremented.

--11. (Amended)   A computer-readable medium for recording a program allowing a computer in a control device for controlling [pieces of] a controlled apparatus performing communications within a network to carry out [the steps of]:

a determining step for determining whether [said] the controlled apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to a signal from [said] the control device;

a measuring step for measuring a duration of an abnormally controlled period of time when [it is determined in the] said determining step determines that [said] the controlled apparatus is abnormally controlled corresponding to [a] the signal from [said] the control device; and

a deallocating step for deallocating an identifier, allocated to [said] the controlled apparatus for identifying [said] the controlled apparatus, when the duration measured in [the] said measuring step exceeds a predetermined measuring period of time.

--12. (Amended)   The computer-readable medium according to claim 11, [characterized in that a] wherein said computer-readable medium further records a program [carrying out] executing a use-restriction-lifting step for lifting a use

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restriction on [said] the controlled apparatus to allow the

identifier deallocated in [the] said deallocating step to be

allocated to any [of said pieces of] controlled apparatus

performing communications within the network after a

predetermined delaying period of time has elapsed.

--13. (Amended)   An information processing apparatus

connected to a control device through a network and controlled

by the control device comprising:

[a] determining means for determining whether [it] said

information processing apparatus is normally controlled

corresponding to a signal from [said] the control device;

[a] measuring means for measuring a duration of an

abnormally controlled period of time when said determining

means determines that [it] said information processing

apparatus is abnormally controlled corresponding to [a] the

signal from [said] the control device; and

[a] deallocating means for deallocating an identifier

allocated [thereto] to said information processing apparatus

from the control device when the duration measured by [the]

said measuring means exceeds a predetermined measuring period

of time.

--14. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 13, [characterized in that] <u>wherein</u> the signal from [said] <u>the</u> control device is a sending permission signal.

--15. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 13, [characterized in that] <u>wherein</u>

said determining means [carries out said determination] <u>determines whether said information processing apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to the signal from the control device</u> every given cycle; and

[that] said measuring means is provided with a counter for measuring [said] <u>the</u> duration <u>of the abnormally controlled period of time,</u> and when said [controlled apparatus] <u>information processing apparatus</u> is found to be abnormally controlled corresponding to the signal from the control device according to [the determination obtained by] said determining means [every given cycle], said measuring means [measures said duration by incrementing] <u>increments</u> a count of [said] <u>the</u> counter.

--16. (Amended)   An information processing method of an information processing apparatus connected to a control device through a network and controlled by the control device comprising [the steps of]:

a determining step for determining whether [it] the information processing apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to [a] the signal from [said] the control device;

a measuring step for measuring a duration of an abnormally controlled period of time when [it is determined in the] said determining step determines that [said controlled apparatus] the information processing apparatus is abnormally controlled corresponding to a signal from [said] the control device; and

a deallocating step for deallocating an identifier allocated [thereto] to the information processing apparatus from the control device when the duration measured in [the] said measuring step exceeds a predetermined measuring period of time.

--17. (Amended)   The information processing method according to claim 16, [characterized in that] wherein the

signal from [said] the control device is a sending permission
signal.

--18. (Amended) The information processing method
according to claim 16, [characterized in that said
determination is carried out in] wherein

said determining step determines whether the information
processing apparatus is normally controlled corresponding to
the signal from the control device every given cycle; and

[that, in] said measuring step is provided with a counter
for measuring the duration of the abnormally controlled period
of time, and when [said controlled apparatus] the information
processing apparatus is found to be abnormally controlled
corresponding to the signal from [said] the control device
according to [the determination obtained in] said determining
step [every given cycle, said duration is measured by
incrementing] a count of [said] the counter is incremented.

--19. (Amended) A computer-readable medium for recording
a program [for] allowing a computer in an information
processing apparatus connected to a control device through a
network and controlled by the control device to carry out [the

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steps of]:

a determining step for determining whether [it] <u>the</u>

<u>information processing apparatus</u> is normally controlled

corresponding to a signal from [said] <u>the</u> control device[,]<u>;</u>

a measuring step for measuring a duration of <u>an</u>

abnormally controlled period of time when [it is determined in

the] <u>said</u> determining step <u>determines</u> that [it] <u>the</u>

<u>information processing apparatus</u> is abnormally controlled[,]<u>;</u>

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and

a deallocating step for deallocating an identifier

allocated [thereto] <u>to the information processing apparatus</u>

from [said] <u>the</u> control device when the duration measured in

said measuring step exceeds a predetermined <u>measuring</u> period

of time.

--20. (Amended) A communication system comprising a

control device and [pieces of] <u>a</u> controlled apparatus

controlled by said control device in which each of [the] <u>said</u>

<u>control</u> device and [the] <u>said controlled</u> apparatus [are

communicated] <u>communicate</u> with each other,

said control device including:

[a] first determining means for determining whether

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said controlled apparatus is normally controlled

corresponding to a signal from said control device;

[a] first measuring means for measuring a _first_

duration of _an_ abnormally controlled period of time when

said first determining means determines that said

controlled apparatus is abnormally controlled

corresponding to [a] _the_ signal from said control device;

and

[a] first deallocating means for deallocating an

identifier allocated to said controlled apparatus for

identifying [the] _said_ controlled apparatus when the

first duration measured by the first measuring means

exceeds a first predetermined period of time[,]_;_ and

said controlled apparatus [device] including:

[a] second determining means for determining whether

[it] _said controlled apparatus_ is normally controlled

corresponding to [a] _the_ signal from said control device;

[a] second measuring means for measuring a _second_

duration of _an_ abnormally controlled period of time when

the second determining means determines that [it] _said_

controlled apparatus is abnormally controlled; and

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[a] second deallocating means for deallocating [an] the identifier allocated [thereto] <u>to said controlled apparatus</u> from said control device when the <u>second</u> duration measured by the second measuring means exceeds a second predetermined period of time.

--21. (Amended)   The communication system according to claim 20, [characterized in that] <u>wherein</u> the signal from said control device is a sending permission signal to said controlled apparatus.

--22. (Amended)   The communication system according to claim 20, [characterized in that the] <u>wherein said</u> control device further comprises

[a] use-restriction-lifting [mans] <u>means</u> for lifting a use restriction on [the] <u>said</u> controlled apparatus to allow the identifier deallocated by [the] <u>said</u> first deallocating means to be allocated to any [of said pieces of] controlled apparatus <u>in said communication system</u> after a third predetermined period of time longer than the second predetermined period of time has elapsed.

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